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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,080	10/21/2003	Masataka Muratani	065905-0299	2829
22428	7590	03/14/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			CRENSHAW, MARVIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/689,080

Applicant(s)

MURATANI, MASATAKA

Examiner

Marvin P. Crenshaw

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2 - 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 - 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 – 8 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushiroji et al. in view of Bigenwald et al.

Ushiroji et al. teaches an image forming (Fig. 1) apparatus comprising a developing image forming unit (Fig. 2, 120) to form unfixed toner images on recording media, a fixing unit (Fig. 1, 150) to heat, pressurize and fix unfixed toner images on recording media having the unfixed toner images while conveying the recording media in the first direction by clamping them with a curved nip portion and a conveying guide (Fig. 1, 500) provided at the downstream of the fixing unit and curved in the direction reverse to the curve of the nip portion to guide the recording media in a second direction crossing the first direction, a fan (Fig. 1, 530) to cool the recording media while conveying the recording media in the conveying guide and a stacking portion (Fig. 2) to stack the recording media guided by the conveying guide and cooled by the fan.

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However, Ushiroji et al. doesn't teach a curl correction unit. Bigenwald et al. teaches a curl correction unit (106) to change an angle of curve of the conveying guide by contacting the conveying guide and adjusting a contacting force with the conveying guide.

It would have been obvious to modify Ushiroji et al. by replacing the conveying guide (54) with the conveying guide and curl correction unit (106) of Bigenwald so as to provide an efficient means for guiding the media to the exit tray, while at the same time correcting for curl.

With respect to claim 10; Ushiroji et al. teaches an image forming (Fig. 1) apparatus wherein the first direction is the vertical direction and the second direction is the horizontal direction.

With respect to claim 11 - 13, Ushiroji et al. doesn't teach a curl correction unit applying a contacting force onto the conveying guide. Bigenwald et al. teaches an image forming apparatus wherein the contacting force of the curl correction unit with the conveying guide is set according to the characteristics of the recording media (See col. 4, lines 33 – 50), an image forming apparatus wherein the contacting force of the curl correction unit with the conveying guide is set according to the fixing characteristics of a toner image formed on the developing image forming unit (See col. 4, lines 33 – 50), an image forming apparatus wherein the contacting force of the curl correction unit with the conveying guide is set according to the fixing characteristics of the fixing unit (See col. 4, lines 33 – 50), an image forming apparatus wherein the curl correction unit is brought in contact with the conveying guide after the leading edge of the recording media

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passes between the conveying guide and the curl correction unit (See abstract) and an image forming (Fig. 1) apparatus wherein the conveying guide has the guide belt that rotates in the guide direction and the curl correction unit changes the angle of curve of the guide belt.

It would have been obvious to modify Ushiroji et al. to have a curl correction unit applying a contacting force onto the conveying guide as taught by Bigenwald et al. to provide an efficient means for applying a force for correcting the curl of a recording media after the image has been fixed due to moisture in the media.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

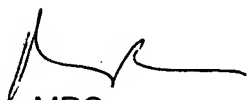
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-2158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MPC
March 10, 2005



REN YAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER